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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kenneth Kurtz
Chair, House Families, Children & Seniors Committee

FROM: Felicia Wasson, Associate State Director-Government Affairs

DATE: March 6, 2012

RE: "Silver Alert" Legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the package of bills commonly known as the "Silver Alert" legislation. We applaud the efforts of the sponsors of this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that our state's most vulnerable are protected from those who would seek to prey on them.

AARP Michigan believes "Silver Alert" bills should make every effort to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of the subject of the alert. As such, **we suggest the following changes to SB 466:**

- First, the clause "At least 60 years of age" in the bill's definition should be removed. There is not data to support that turning age 60 creates an inherent vulnerability in an individual.
- Second, we believe the clearer incorporation of the following concepts would better meet the bill's intent to provide protection in situations where it is warranted:
 - The individual who is eligible to be the subject of an alert has been adjudicated by a court to be incapable of managing his or her own personal affairs, such as through a guardianship proceeding, or has a documented diagnosis of a mental illness, injury, or condition that causes the individual to be incapable of making personal care decisions; and
 - The individual who initiates an alert must have one of the following relationships to the subject of the alert: be a legal guardian or close family member; live in the same household; or be a caregiver who has had very recent contact with the subject.

We believe these changes will help ensure that adults who are truly vulnerable will be in a better position to be found by the authorities.